



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
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DIVISIONS

Office of the Secretary
(505) 827-0341
Administrative Services
(505) 827-0369
Audit and Compliance
(505) 827-0900
Motor Vehicle
(505) 827-2296
Property Tax
(505) 827-0870
Revenue Processing
(505) 827-0800
Tax Fraud Investigations
(505) 841-6544

Bill Richardson

Governor

Jan Goodwin

Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: David Harwell (505) 827-0313

Santa Theresa Couple Arraigned in Las Cruces on Tax Fraud Charges

Las Cruces – On January 2, 2007, David E. Landess and Paula K. Landess, of Santa Theresa, were arraigned before Third Judicial District Court Judge Douglas Driggers on State of New Mexico income tax fraud charges. Mr. Landess was charged with two felony counts of willfully attempting to evade or defeat New Mexico Personal Income Taxes for the tax years 2003 and 2004 and one felony count of false statement and fraud. Mr. Landess pleaded “not guilty” to the charges.

Mrs. Landess was charged with two felony counts of willfully attempting to evade or defeat New Mexico Personal Income Taxes for the tax years 2003 and 2004 and pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Mr. and Mrs. Landess were each released on \$50,000 unsecured bonds. The couple was indicted by a Dona Ana County Grand Jury on December 14, 2006. If convicted, the couple faces imprisonment of one year and a fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000 on each count of attempting to evade tax. Additionally, if convicted, Mr. Landess faces imprisonment of six months and a fine of up to \$5,000 on the charge of filing false statements. A trial date has not been set.

The case was a result of an investigation by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department’s Tax Fraud Investigations Division. The Department is currently conducting over 50 investigations throughout the State of New Mexico in a number of industries and occupations.

To report suspected tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.

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